

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



A strong upper level high pressure ridge moved over California at the start of the week, bringing dry conditions to the State, with cool morning low temperatures and very mild afternoon high temperatures. This high pressure strengthened during the first part of the week with highs reaching the 80s across southern California and at some locations in the San Joaquin Valley. Changes began to occur on Friday, as a series of Pacific frontal systems approached the Central California Coast. The first of these brought showers to the Central Coast on Friday, and increasing clouds to the rest of the State. On Saturday, rain spread across almost all of the State, including the dry southern counties, where $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch of rain fell. This

finally broke the prolonged dry spell in that part of the State. Elsewhere, moderate amounts of rainfall and mountain snow fell through the rest of the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Rice stubble was disced in preparation for next year's crop. **Cotton** harvest was complete, and shredding of cotton stalks for plowdown compliance continued. **Sorghum** harvest was complete. New **alfalfa** fields were planted, and winter **wheat** planting continued in the Central Valley. Wheat and alfalfa fields were treated with herbicides. Dryland wheat planting was just beginning. In the Imperial Valley, freezing overnight temperatures caused frost damage to alfalfa fields. Winter forage crops were planted, and **triticale** was being drilled into bedded fields for cover crops. **Garbanzo** beans were planted in the Sacramento Valley. **Sweet potato** hotbed fumigations were ongoing in Merced County. **Sugar beets** fields were cultivated in Fresno County.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape vineyard activities included fertilization, pruning, shredding and trellis system repair. Some table grape vineyards were covered with plastic to extend harvest for Red Globe, Autumn Royal, Calmeria, and Crimson varieties. Cultural activities continued in stone fruit orchards with irrigating, pruning, fertilizing, herbicide applications and the pushing out of old orchards for replanting. **Pomegranate** harvest progressed but at a slower rate. **Persimmon** harvest was ongoing for Fuyu and Hachiya varieties. Navel **orange** and **lemon** picking continued. Cooler weather was helping to enhance orange color and making orange rinds tougher. Citrus growers were monitoring their groves for freeze damage. Clementine **tangerine** harvest was gaining momentum. Satsumas were also harvested. Herbicides and fungicides were being applied to orange groves. Olive orchards were pruned in Tulare County.

NUT CROPS

Some **almond** growers were pruning, shredding, irrigating, and applying herbicides in orchards. Weed treatment was taking place in **walnut** orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Broccoli and cauliflower harvests continued. In Tulare County, tomato harvest had ended for the season. Although fall lettuce harvest had been completed, new lettuce fields for spring were in various stages of growth with weeding, irrigation, fertilization and treatments to control insects and mildew. Garlic and radicchio were harvested along with many Asian vegetables.

LIVESTOCK

Ranges and pastures were in better condition as the result of recent rains. Rains also started the re-growth of grass but many areas were still in need of moisture. More cattle were placed on rangelands for grazing. At some lower elevations, cattle were still being fed nutrient supplements and hay. Fall calving was complete in some areas. Dairy production was again high with the cooler weather. Sheep were grazing in old stands of alfalfa and retired farmland. Bees were again brought in from various States to over-winter in California.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/10/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/10/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/10/06	January 1 - 12/10/06	Week Ending 12/10/06	July 1 - 12/10/06	July 1 - 12/10/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	-1	66	35	18	0	1.86	11.74	12.02	37.53
Ukiah	53	5	87	32	1,768	1,454	1.73	6.09	10.36	37.96
Santa Rosa	50	1	68	30	938	923	1.59	5.75	8.18	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	53	2	66	40	568	443	1.17	3.57	4.68	19.70
San Jose	54	3	70	38	1,470	1,334	0.90	2.68	3.57	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,657	1,457	0.00	0.00	3.53	14.21
Salinas AP	55	4	76	38	506	432	1.10	2.40	2.95	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	4	72	40	296	145	1.32	2.28	4.41	18.72
King City	53	3	80	29	1,459	1,043	0.69	1.47	2.59	11.44
Paso Robles AP	50	2	76	23	1,766	1,552	0.71	1.55	2.52	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	49	2	71	29	2,967	2,504	1.84	6.55	8.42	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	50	2	69	31	2,884	2,610	0.84	3.22	6.50	22.29
Chico AFS	52	5	70	30	2,611	2,043	1.44	3.54	6.61	26.32
Marysville	48	0	65	29	2,538	2,442	1.43	3.29	5.62	21.04
Sacramento AP	49	2	66	31	2,042	1,932	1.38	2.98	4.32	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	51	4	69	31	2,390	2,214	0.57	2.43	3.58	13.95
Fresno	53	6	77	32	3,157	2,792	0.34	0.65	2.43	10.60
Bakersfield	53	4	81	34	3,277	3,128	0.21	0.54	1.41	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	58	5	80	36	876	410	0.54	1.31	2.68	12.36
Santa Barbara	53	0	76	31	839	736	0.63	1.41	3.23	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,448	940	0.00	0.00	2.89	14.38
Los Angeles	63	3	82	44	2,868	2,455	0.43	0.93	2.42	14.77
Riverside	61	5	87	38	3,266	2,377	0.24	0.37	1.84	9.58
San Diego AP	58	-1	74	43	2,098	1,798	0.30	1.29	2.24	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	41	2	68	15	1,824	1,552	0.01	0.79	1.42	5.37
Lancaster	43	-1	70	12	2,844	2,343	0.23	0.34	1.58	6.92
Daggett AP	49	-1	70	24	4,388	3,937	0.00	0.05	1.64	3.93
Thermal AP	54	-1	81	25	5,133	4,870	0.00	0.03	1.45	3.16
Blythe	55	0	78	33	5,653	5,381	0.00	3.09	2.11	3.60
Imperial	57	0	81	34	5,662	5,159	0.00	0.08	1.41	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	32	1	54	8	581	296	0.01	1.84	3.98	12.01
Mt. Shasta	41	5	60	25	842	446	1.72	5.38	10.99	37.02
Blue Canyon	48	8	62	29	1,192	574	1.79	10.06	18.79	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	49	29	1,396	1,090	0.00	2.66	10.35	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.